

CLAIMS:

1. A method of positioning a cursor on the display screen of a computer, under control of an operator, the method comprising the steps of:
 - establishing a field about a movable body part of the operator;
 - sensing the strength of the field at one or more predetermined positions in a fixed reference frame, thereby to provide a control variable corresponding to the position of the body part in the reference frame; and
 - positioning the cursor on the display screen in response to the control variable.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the movable body part is one of the hands of the operator.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the field is established by injecting an electrical signal into the operator's body via the other hand of the operator.
4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the strength of the field is sensed by means of a first pair of position-sensing electrodes spaced apart in a first direction in the reference frame, to provide a first control variable corresponding to the position of the body part in the first direction, and a second pair of position-sensing electrodes spaced apart in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, to provide a second control variable corresponding to the position of the body part in the second direction.
5. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cursor is positioned by moving it to a position on the display screen corresponding to the position of the body part (R) in the reference frame, if the body part is within an imaginary boundary in the reference frame, and by continuing to move it along a line corresponding to the direction in which the body part approached the boundary, if the body part is at or beyond the boundary.
6. A computer system which comprises a display screen, a keyboard for entry of data into the system, and positioning means for controlling the position of a cursor on the display screen, the positioning means comprising:

position-sensing electrodes placed in a fixed reference frame, for sensing the strength of a field established about a movable body part (R) of an operator and thereby to provide a control variable corresponding to the position of the body part in the reference frame; and

control means operative in response to the control variable to position the cursor on the display screen in accordance with the position of the body part in the reference frame.

7. The computer system as claimed in claim 6, which further comprises a signal generator for generating an alternating electrical signal, and an injection electrode for injecting the electrical signal into the body of the operator and so establish the electrical field about said movable body part.

8. The computer system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said body part is one of the hands of the operator, and wherein the position-sensing electrodes are so arranged with respect to the keyboard that the operator can control the position of the cursor by moving said one hand in a hovering manner over the keyboard.

9. The computer system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the injection electrode is arranged to inject the electrical signal into the body of the operator via the other hand of the operator.

10. The computer system as claimed 8 which further comprises one or more click switches for operation by the operator.

11. The computer system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the click switch or switches are arranged to be operated by said other hand of the operator.

12. The computer system as claimed in claim 6 which further comprises a conventional pointing device and selection means for enabling the operator to select the conventional pointing device for controlling the position of the cursor on the display screen.

13. An accessory for use in positioning a cursor on the display screen of a computer, under control of an operator, which comprises:

signal generating means for generating an electrical signal;

an injection electrode coupled to the signal generating means, for injecting the electrical signal into the body of the operator, thereby to establish a field about a movable body part of the operator;

position-sensing electrodes for placement in a fixed reference frame, for sensing the strength of the electrical field; and

means coupled to the position-sensing electrodes for generating a control variable corresponding to the position of the body part in the reference frame, whereby the cursor can be positioned in response to the control variable.